

REMARKS

In the Office Action, all of the pending claims 1-14 and 33-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103. In response thereto, claims 1-14 and 33-50 have been cancelled, and new claims 51-81 have been added.

A Species Election was imposed in the Office Action mailed on March 12, 2002, and in a paper dated April 8, 2002, entitled "Response to Office Action Mailed March 12, 2002," the species of Embodiment III, as exemplified by Fig. 3B, was elected.

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks.

A. Amendments to the Specification and Drawings

Certain amendments to the specification are made hereby. The amendments all concern particular figures, and merely describe in words what is shown in the originally-filed figures. No new matter is added.

The drawings are amended by way of an accompanying paper. The amendments add numbers to the figures to accompany the amendments to the specification, and correct an error in the previously submitted formal version of Fig. 3B. No new matter is added.

B. The New Claims

New claims 51-73 are added hereby. Consistent with the species election, it is submitted that independent claims 51, 58, and 65 read on the elected embodiment of Fig. 3B. Dependent claims 52, 54, 57, 59, 61, 64, 66, 68, and 71 also read on the elected embodiment of Fig. 3B.

However, new dependent claims 53, 55, 56, 60, 62, 63, 67, 69, and 70 *do not* read on the elected embodiment of Fig. 3B, and should be considered *withdrawn* after their entry by

this amendment. If their underlying independent claims are allowed, then these withdrawn claims should be reentered and allowed.

It is submitted that the new claims do not introduce new matter, because each of the claims is supported in the figures of application as filed.

C. The New Claims Distinguish the Cited References

Regarding claim 51, it is submitted that claim 51 patentably distinguishes U.S. Patent 6,225,146 to Yamaguchi et al. ("Yamaguchi"). Yamaguchi at least lacks claim 51's features of :

outer leads each having an inner portion within the encapsulant body and an outer portion extending outside of the encapsulant body;

wherein the inner leads and the die paddle are downset in the encapsulant body from the encapsulated inner portions of the outer leads, a bottom surface portion of each of the inner leads and the die paddle is exposed at the bottom surface of the encapsulant body, and the unencapsulated outer portion of each of the outer leads includes a bottom surface portion that is approximately coplanar with the bottom surface of the encapsulant body and the exposed bottom surface portions of the die paddle and inner leads; and

This claim language is well supported in Fig. 3B, where the outer leads 12 are partly in and partly-out of the encapsulant 34, and inner leads 20 are shown as being in the encapsulant 34 at a position vertically below the plane of the encapsulated inner portion of outer leads 12.

Yamaguchi does not show this feature, because Yamaguchi's inside inner leads 23 and outside inner leads 24 are coplanar at a bottom of sealing resin 32.

Regarding claim 58, it also reads on Fig. 3B and distinguishes Yamaguchi at least by the following features:

outer leads each having an encapsulated inner portion within the encapsulant body and an unencapsulated outer portion that extends outward from the side surface of the encapsulant body;

wherein a bottom surface portion of each of the inner leads and the die paddle is exposed at the bottom surface of the encapsulant body, and the unencapsulated outer portion of each of the outer leads is vertically bent so as to have a bottom surface portion that is approximately coplanar with the bottom surface of the encapsulant body and the exposed bottom surface portions of the inner leads; and

Regarding claim 58, it also reads on Fig. 3B and distinguishes Yamaguchi at least by the following features:

outer leads each having an encapsulated inner portion within the encapsulant body and an unencapsulated outer portion that extends outward from the side surface of the encapsulant body;

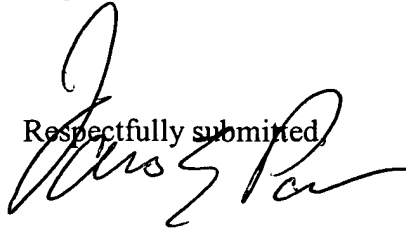
wherein a surface portion of each of the inner leads is exposed at the first surface of the encapsulant body, and the unencapsulated outer portion of each of the outer leads is vertically bent so as to have a surface portion that is approximately coplanar with one of the first and second surfaces of the encapsulant body;

The new dependent claims are submitted to distinguish Yamaguchi for at least the same reasons as their underlying independent claims.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is in a condition for allowance. Please direct any comments or questions to the undersigned at 408 451-5906.

Respectfully submitted,



Customer No.: 022888

James E. Parsons
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 34,691

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 7, 2003.

11/7/03
Date

Richard A. Baumann
Signature